



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Auditor-General of South Africa

City of uMhlathuze - audit report 2015-16

Report of the auditor-general to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature and the council on the City of uMhlathuze

Report on the financial statements

Introduction

1. I audited the financial statements of the City of uMhlathuze set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget with actual information for the year then ended as well as the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015) (DoRA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the municipality's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of uMhlathuze as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

7. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

8. As disclosed in note 33 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2015 have been restated as a result of errors discovered during the year ended 30 June 2016 in the financial statements of the City of uMhlathuze at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2015.

Events after reporting date

9. As disclosed in note 32 to the financial statements, City of uMhlathuze incorporated three wards from Ntambanana Municipality after the local government elections. This arose due to a redetermination of boundaries in terms of section 21 of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act of South Africa, 1998 (Act No. 27 of 1998).

Additional matter

10. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited disclosure notes

11. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

12. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report, compliance with legislation and internal control. The objective of my tests was to identify reportable findings as described under each subheading but not to gather evidence to express assurance on these matters. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Predetermined objectives

13. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the basic service delivery and infrastructure development presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2016.
14. I evaluated the reported performance information against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
15. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it was consistent with the planned development priority. I further performed tests to determine whether indicators and targets were well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable, time bound and relevant, as required by the National Treasury's Framework for managing programme performance information.
16. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
17. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the basic service delivery and the infrastructure development objective.

Additional matter

18. I identified no material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected development priority, however, I draw attention to the following matter:

Achievement of planned targets

19. The annual performance report on pages x to x includes information on the achievement of the planned targets for the year.

Compliance with legislation

20. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality complied with applicable legislation regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key legislation, as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Internal control

21. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Other report

22. I draw attention to the following engagement that could potentially have an impact on the municipality's financial, performance and compliance matters. My opinion is not modified in respect of this engagement that is in progress.

Investigation

23. At the request of the municipality, the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs investigated allegations of possible maladministration and corruption. The investigation covered the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The investigation was still in progress at the date of this report.

Auditor-General

Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2016



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